INFORMATION REPORT

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- The Holy See is critical of Alcide De Gasperi and the Christian Democratic Party for its lack of seriousness and its dishonesty in leading the people to believe that the Christian Democratic Farty is the Vatican party whereas this has never been the case.
- This attitude on the part of the Vatican is not new but has been enforced under the impulse of recent directives. The Holy See, concerned over the present international situation and the coming elections, wishes as quickly as possible to remove itself from any responsibility deriving from the actions of the Christian Democratic Party.
- The great victories won by the Christian Democratic Farty were, above all, obtained by the invisible support of the Church. The priests in the country decisively influenced the voting of the masses and these priests would never have acted without instruction from the central authorities of the Church.
- The "intelligence services" of the Church have for some time been informed of anti-Christian Democratic reaction among the masses. A close study of this phenomenon has shown that the Christian Democratic Farty, in its organization and in its leaders, is far from capable of facing the task before it, and that the people accuse the Church of supporting a clique, an association of exploiters who think only of themselves and show themselves to be corrupt and to lack political sensibility.
- Then De Gasperi was urged not to compromise the Church, by placing it in the center of his political maneuverings, he reportedly replied that he could not do otherwise and that the misfortune of the Christian Democratic Party could now mean only disgrace for the Church. Because of the above, the Church has decided to carry out the following program:
  - The separation of its own responsibilities from those of the Christian Democratic Farty so as to disprove the belief in the union between the Church and that Party, thus saving the Church by casting aside De Gasperi and his Government;
  - The establishing of a new conservative political party or current to take over the Government in Italy with the support of the United States CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

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- c. The consequent removal of the Christian Democratic Party and its leaders; and
- d. The supporting of a conservative government and the anti-Soviet campaign.

The first two points would reportedly be carried out by the coming elections.

6. The Holy See has apparently decided to support the extreme rightist currents, the rily ones in Italy which have deep roots and are not displiked today by the Americans. It seems also that attention is being devoted to a possible restoration of the Monarchy, not thought to be impossible in the person of young Prince Victor Emanuele if international events do not worsen. The extreme religiousness of the Houses of Savoia and Brabante would be an excellent guarentee for the Church, ready to surround the young Prince with religious confessors and advisers who could influence him. A restoration of the Monarchy, technically considered impossible, could be brought about in a politically favorable moment in which the USSR wishes to call the waters."

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